

Australian Tribute To Yankees

Monaco Notes Jules Verne Anniversary

With the public interest created by the moving picture "20,000 Leagues Under The Sea", a Walt Disney production, the set of stamps issued by Monaco noting the 50th anniversary of the death of the author should be much in demand.



He is Jules Verne, born in 1828 and dead in 1905. Verne wrote other books, just as exciting and prophetic, some of which are illustrated via the stamp designs. Denominations are 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 25, and 30 francs, for regular postage and a 200fr airmail. The submarine Nautilus is pictured on both the 25 and 30fr, the latter having a trapezoidal shape. The stamps are all in two colors.



The set was released June 7. Also appearing the same day was a new set of definitives with the portrait of Prince Rainier III in values of 6, 8, 12, 15, 18 and 30fr.

Air Letter, Postal Card From Norway

Norway has a new air letter with a face value of 55 ore besides which the purchaser must pay an additional 5 ore for the piece of postal stationery itself. This item is machine-folded with the gummed flap at the bottom.

Also released is an official postal card with a denomination of 20 ore in a green color. In the design are the abbreviated words in Norwegian "Off. Sak." equivalent to the English "official mail".

These along with other stamps are available from the Norwegian Philatelic Agency at face plus return postage. There are seven kroner to the U. S. dollar (each kroner has 100 ore). Address requests to the Postverket, Primerkesalg til Samiere, Oslo, Norway.

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LAKE COUNTY OFFICIAL FAMILY. At the recent annual banquet of the Lake County Philatelic Society of Waukegan, Ill. the newly elected officers were installed. They are shown above right after the "swearing in" ceremonies. From left to right are secretary Ruth Coulson, 1332 N. Jackson St.; president George Lindhart; vice president Andrew Andjelkovich; treasurer Paul Binning. The club meets the second and fourth Tuesdays at 218 Madison St.

Chevremont, A Fortress In Roman Times, Now Place Of A Sacred Belgian Basilica

Winfield J. Hain

Belgium issued a series of four semipostal stamps in 1948 to aid the Carmelite Fathers in restoring their ruined Basilica of the Virgin which crowns the plateau of Chevremont ("Goat-Mountain"), just a few miles southeast of Liege. The story behind these stamps is a grim and fascinating one, interesting alike to students of history and of religious philately.

The hill of Chevremont, which overlooks the valley of the Vesdre River, had been occupied by the Celts in pre-Christian times because of its height and defensibility. Later, when the region fell to the Romans, they fortified it by the erection of a presidio on the summit.

A votive stone inscribed in Latin, possibly dating from the first pre-Christian century, was unearthed there in the 1500's.

After the fall of Rome the Franks conquered the land and distributed it among their chieftains. Chevremont became part of the kingdom of Austrasia. No one knows when the first Merovingian fortress was erected on the heights of Chevremont, but we do know that sometime during the 7th century it became the seigneurial residence of Ansegise and his spouse, St. Begga, both descended from Frankish nobility of the highest rank.

Ansegise set about and renovated the buildings, adding refinements and strengthening the fortifications. It became a combination of manor, country-house and fortress. Behind its impregnable walls were barns, stables, houses, barracks and a chapel.

Excavations to a depth of ten metres, undertaken in 1943, exposed the foundations of about twenty towers (almost all of them square in shape), seven metres square and connected by ramparts. Built of finished stone, they have the appearance of either being Roman in origin, or else built in imitation of Roman style.

The archaeologist in charge of the work claims Chevremont will prove to be the largest example of Merovingian fortress yet discovered, and an invaluable addition to



our meager knowledge of one of the most obscure periods of military architecture. So much for the background.

The 65c plus 65c stamp of the 1948 series pictures St. Begga (c. 625).

(Continued on page 3)

BIG U.S. CATALOG



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Coaching Era In Australia Began With Cobb & Company Founded By Four Americans

Department of Posts of Australia

New postage stamps of 3½d and 2½d denominations, depicting a Cobb and Co. coach and team, were issued at all Australian post offices on July 6 and will remain on sale for approximately one month. However, they will be available at the Philatelic Bureau and Philatelic Sales Section for a further limited period.

The stamps are being issued as a tribute to and in commemoration of the pioneers of the coaching era, the many firms and individuals who over a long period of years carried the Royal Mail by coach throughout the length and breadth of Australia.

Outstandingly prominent in the development of coaching services in Australia were Cobb and Co., and other proprietors and associates who used the Cobb and Co. name. It is, therefore, appropriate that the two stamps should be illustrative of a Cobb and Co. coach. The design is a reproduction of



Sir Lionel Lindsay's etching, titled "Cobb and Co.", the subject which was sketched by Sir Lionel in the early nineties on the Western Australian goldfields where he had gone with Randolph Bedford, noted Australian author and politician, to do work for the latter's "Clarion", a big illustrated publication devoted to the West and the goldfields.

On one occasion, Sir Lionel and Bedford were the box-seat passengers on the Kalgoorlie coach, the driver being Jim Wilkinson, one of the finest "whips" in Australia, who had previously driven on the Tero-wie-Silverton (later Broken Hill) route. This Kalgoorlie coach became the subject of Sir Lionel's etching, completed many years later from original sketches made at the time. By then, Sir Lionel was residing in New South Wales. Small as is the figure of Jim Wilkinson on the box, it was recognized by Bedford who in a later article on inland Australia, which he knew so well, included the following description:

"As I write there is on the wall above me some of the real Australia. It is a Lionel Lindsay etching, 'The Coach', and the artist's treatment of cloud has made that plain a thousand miles wide finely expressing the magnetic greatness of the continent."

The story of Cobb and Co. in Australia commenced in the latter half of 1853 when four young Americans, Freeman Cobb, John B. Lamber, John Murray Peck and James Swanton, commenced a carrying business in Melbourne under the name of Cobb and Co.

The business did not come into being purely because of circumstances at the moment. In fact, the establishment of a coaching en-

terprise in Australia had been tentatively sketched out by Freeman Cobb himself in the United States when the discovery of gold in Australia drew the attention of the world to the southern continent.

Freeman Cobb of Brewster, Mass. was at that time an employee of the great American express firm of Adams and Co. which, with Wells, Fargo and Co. played a leading role in American coaching history. Cobb saw in the gold discoveries in Australia an opportunity to travel and he persuaded his employer to consider Australia as a field for the extension of its coaching business.

His arguments won the day and early in 1853, accompanied by an older member of the firm, George Mowton, he embarked for Australia. Cobb had determined that in any case he would engage in transportation and in the hold of the vessel were two wagons which he had purchased.

Arrangements were made for a group of experienced drivers, mainly Adams and Co. men to follow on a later ship. Amongst the passengers on Cobb's vessel were the other three young Americans whose names have already been given—Lamber, Peck and Swanton—who with Cobb are to be remembered in history as the original partners of Cobb and Co. It is not remarkable to learn that all had considerable coaching experience as employees of Adams and Co., or Wells, Fargo and Co.

In April 1853 when Cobb reached Melbourne, existing transport facilities were inadequate to handle the tons of goods dumped upon Liardet's Beach (Port Melbourne) from every newly-arrived vessel. Roads were in a shocking state and most gold seekers were forced to walk to the fields, carrying what goods they could. The roads were bad and transportation condi-

(Continued on page 11)

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First Turbo-Prop
Airmail Cachet

Effective on or about July 26 Capital Airlines will inaugurate the first scheduled service over domestic airline routes using turbo-prop equipment.

Official cachets will be provided for Washington, D. C.; Air Mail Field, Washington, D. C.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Air Mail Field, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Chicago, Ill.; Air Mail Field, Chicago, Ill.; Norfolk, Va.

Covers for dispatch from AMF Washington should be sent to District Superintendent, District 6, Postal Transportation Service, Washington 25, D. C.; from AMF Pittsburgh to District Superintendent, District 5, Postal Transportation Service, Pittsburgh 19, Pa.; and from AMF Chicago to District Superintendent, District 8, Chicago 38, Ill.

Airmail service will be inaugurated at Fort Dodge, Iowa effective on or about July 10 over Route AM-48.

No official cachet for first flight covers will be authorized. However, souvenir covers received by the postmaster will be dispatched to first flights if practicable.

Covers for the above flights should bear a name and address to the right, contain a stuffer, and bear 6c in stamps. Send them to the respective postmasters or AMF's as directed with a request for the first flight service on the respective routes.

Bargain Offer
Made In Error

Through an error in the make-up department of Linn's Weekly Stamp News an obsolete ad of Gimbels Stamp Department was placed in the July 4 edition. It offered the stamps of Israel one lot of which was an out and out bargain at the price quoted.

This was the "A Complete Collection Of Israel" at \$132.50 which at today's prices and scarcity of material would be a "steal" even at wholesale.

Jacques Minkus of Gimbels advises that their offering of such collections at that price was completely exhausted when the ad appeared some months ago and that due to the terrific world-wide demand for all kinds of Israeli philatelic material, replenishment of stock for sale at any price has been difficult if not impossible.

The ad has placed the various stamp departments throughout the nation under Minkus management in the undesirable position of not being "able to deliver the goods", something which rarely ever happens. Those who have ordered, or are planning to order from the July 4 ad are advised that the Israel collection is not available at the price quoted which was printed in error. Other items in the same ad were in very short supply, and could be completely sold out after just a few purchases.

A clear space not less than 2½ inches to the left on the address side of all covers must be left for application of cachet. Also 1½ inches of clear space should be provided to the left of the innermost postage stamp or 4 inches to left of the right edge of cover, whichever is greater, for application of postmark impression.

In order that cachet will not overlap the postmark impression, 2½ inches of clear space is needed to left of both postmark and address. Cachet will not be applied if it will overlap postmark impression nor will it be applied to the reverse side of the cover.

Covers for first-trip cancellation should be sent under cover or label to appropriate postmaster with letter or endorsement on label authorizing the holding of covers for first trip and requesting application of first-trip cachet and postmark stamp. No provision will be made for philatelic handling of covers or from intermediate post offices on routes.

All covers will be backstamped at outer terminal of route and forwarded to destination. Covers should be in hands of appropriate postmasters not later than July 7.

**Less Than 200,000
Certified Mail FDC's**

Figures relative to the first day of issue of the new Certified Mail 15c stamp were released by the Post Office Department. This had its first day of issue at Washington, D. C. on June 6.

There were 176,308 covers cancelled and 247,069 stamps sold. The latter figure represents stamps sold at the main Washington post office and the philatelic agency.

Send us your material for an IMMEDIATE CASH OFFER, no matter how large the amount.

Ship your stamps in the most convenient manner. We will make an offer by return airmail. Your stamps will be held intact awaiting your acceptance.

We will travel to examine large lots or collections.

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New York 38, N. Y.

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Heart Attack Fells
Mrs. Johanna Rich

Mrs. Johanna E. Rich, 65, well known in stamp circles, died suddenly of a heart attack, on the morning of Sunday, June 26. Mrs. Rich had recovered fully from an illness during the previous winter, and was apparently in good health up to the moment of the heart seizure.

Born in Douglas, Cape of Good Hope, Mrs. Rich came to this country after her marriage to Stephen G. Rich in 1920, when he was living in South Africa. She has been a collector from the age of 10. In the mid-1920's Mrs. Rich went extensively in for United States Precancels, and at one time had the third largest collection in this field, with over 40,000 items.

Mrs. Rich went extensively into Topical Collecting in the period from 1945 onward. Her special fields were sections of the Animal Kingdom on Stamps. Her Camels, Insects and Dogs are well known collections which had taken high awards when exhibited.

Mrs. Rich was a life member of the Precancel Stamp Society and one of the earliest members to join the American Topical Association. She was a member of the Essex Stamp Club of Newark, N. J. and of the Women's Philatelic Society of New York. Her home in Verona, New Jersey, was a gathering place for stamp people of various ages and interests, right to the end.

She is survived by her husband Stephen G. Rich, prominent philatelic author, and active as an officer and member in the affairs of the Society of Philatelic Americans.

Eastern HPO
Service To Start

The Post Office Department has belatedly announced that Highway Post Office Service will be inaugurated between Rochester, N. Y. and Williamsport, Pa. on or shortly after July 9.

The initial trip from Rochester will be designated Trip 1 and the initial trip from Williamsport will be designated Trip 2.

Special first-trip cachets and cancellation stamps will be provided at both Rochester and Williamsport. Collectors desiring first-trip cancellations should prepare their covers ready for mailing with postage prepaid at the first-class rate and send them to the postmasters as follows: Covers for Trip 1 to Rochester; Covers for Trip 2 to Williamsport.

A clear space not less than 2½ inches to the left on the address side of all covers must be left for application of cachet. Also 1½ inches of clear space should be provided to the left of the innermost postage stamp or 4 inches to left of the right edge of cover, whichever is greater, for application of postmark impression.

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Monday, July 11, 1955

Page Three

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GEORGE GRAHAM

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CHEVREMONT
(Continued from page 1)

695?), with the castle of Chevremont in the background. Note the square towers. The story of St. Begga is a tragic one, yet so typical of the grim period in which she lived.

Begga, daughter of Pepin of Landen, Mayor of the Palace, and of St. Itta (Ida) of Nivelles, was born in Brabant. She became the wife of Ansegise, a younger son of Arnulf, the Bishop of Metz who cooperated with Pepin in the government of Austrasia. It will be remembered that the Merovingian kings who were the nominal rulers were mere puppets, tools of the Mayors of the Palace.

Ansegise and Begga were happily married, though for a time childless. One day, while returning from a hunting trip, Ansegise found a child crying in front of his castle wall, hungry and abandoned. Taking pity on the foundling, Ansegise carried him into his house and cared for him. He was named Gondowin and baptized under that name.

Shortly thereafter, a son was born to Ansegise and Begga. They named him after Begga's father, Pepin. This child was destined to become known and famous as Pepin of Herstal, whose likeness is pictured on Belgium (Scott type SP236). Pepin of Herstal's private domain is said to have included all of modern Belgium, and was the foundation of the extensive empire his great-grandson Charlemagne, who is pictured on Belgium type SP237, was later to acquire.

One day, while hunting in the depths of the forest, Ansegise was pursued by Gondowin, ambushed and foully murdered. His crime was witnessed by a few faithful retainers who fled to Chevremont and informed Begga of Gondowin's infamy. It seems that Gondowin hoped, by getting Ansegise out of the way, to persuade Begga to marry him and thereby gain control of Chevremont and its domains. This tragedy took place in 673.

Grief-stricken and fearing for her own safety, Begga fled for refuge to her relatives who lived at Hesbaye (German, Haspengau), between the Meuse and Sambre Rivers. A beautiful little legend is told about a hind appearing to Begga, and showing her just where the Vesdre could be crossed with safety. While visiting her relatives, Begga determined to devote her remaining days to the service of God.

Pepin, who had been away while these momentous events occurred, lost no time in setting after Gondowin to avenge his father's murder. He soon caught up with the ingrate and cut off Gondowin's head. In the meantime, Begga journeyed to Rome and upon her return lived at Andenne on the Meuse. Like her sister Gertrude, the saintly Abbess of Nivelles, Begga founded a convent (692), which she ruled as Abbess until her death in 694 or 695.

Father Jerome, in the present century, revived the long-forgotten memory of St. Begga by placing a statue of her in the left nave of the Basilica of Chevremont, and by encouraging pilgrims to venerate it. She is invoked against rheumatism and childhood diseases.

During the Carolingian period the fortress of Chevremont enjoyed a reputation for impregnability, a sort of "Verdun of the Middle Ages." When the Normans ravaged Belgium in 881, the remains of St. Gudule were taken to Chevremont for safety. Ten years later the monks of Stavelot brought the remains of St. Remacle here to save them from the marauding Scandinavians.

During the 10th century Chevremont fell into the hands of Immon, a lord who plundered and terrorized the countryside at will. But he failed to reckon with the doughty Notger, Prince-Bishop of Liege (978-1008), who is depicted on Belgium SP246.

Notger became Bishop of Liege in 978 and labored for years to establish peace and order in his diocese. Immon was a thorn in the side of the Bishop, who resolved to dispose of him according to the fashion of the times. Fortune favored Notger.

One day in the year 986 he was invited to visit Chevremont for the purpose of giving the sacrament of

baptism to the newly-born son of Immon. Notger arrived at the castle with a long procession of priests and monks, piously chanting psalms. The gates of the castle were thrown open to allow the procession to enter.

Once they were assembled in the courtyard, the Bishop's men shed their vestments, drew their swords, and proceeded to slaughter the inmates. Immon threw himself from the walls and died on the rocks below. The castle was razed to the ground. Everything of value, including the altars, statues and sacramental vessels of the churches were removed to Aix-la-Chapelle and Liege. Nothing was left on the deserted summit of Chevremont except piles of ruined masonry. Thus the hill was to remain for seven long centuries, the lair of robbers and brigands.

Sometime prior to 1688 a crude, frail Oratory to the Virgin was erected near the summit of Chevremont by English Jesuits who had been expelled from their native land, and who had settled in Belgium early in the 17th century. This crude little affair was built of stones without mortar; also without permission of the Bishop! The Jesuits used it as an oratory for their retreat-house at Heid-du-Loup, only a short distance away.

The State Archives at Liege ("Dispatches", Registry No. 54, folio 286, verso) contain a petition to the Bishop of Liege, dated September 14, 1688, asking his permission to rebuild the little oratory, which even then was in danger of collapse. Permission was granted, and that portion of the present chapel which is used as the choir was erected. It was enlarged in 1697 by the addition of a porch, built on the spot where pilgrims pray today.

By 1717, when it was rebuilt and renovated, the chapel had already become renowned as the center of a devotion to Our Lady, a cult which embraced Liege and its environs. Thousands of pilgrims came here every year to pray before the image.

Although the nearby Basilica of Our Lady was ruined in World War II, the Chapel of Our Lady, in which the miracle-working image of the Virgin of Chevremont is enshrined, escaped with negligible damage. The chapel is pictured in the background of the 3.15 franc plus 2.85 franc value of the 1948 series.



In the foreground of this stamp is the famous Virgin of Chevremont, the particular object of veneration of the populace of Liege and the surrounding countryside for more than two-and-one-half centuries. Its origin is unknown, although Brassine claims it to be the work of a Chartreuse monk of Liege, who made about ten of them.

In former days the image was gilded and painted. Many miracles have during the course of the centuries been attributed to the intercession of the Virgin of Chevremont. The image of the Virgin is enshrined in an altar standing in the chapel, and protected by an iron grill. This grill, while not detectable on the stamp, encloses one end of the chapel.

On September 9, 1923 the image of the Virgin was the object of

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500 Berlin	1.05	200 Span Cols	3.70
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500 Honduras	2.80	100 Wurtemb.	1.80
200 Hung. P.	1.55	100 " PreWar	2.10
50 " Arm.	1.55	50 " PreWar	.70

ECONOPACKETS

Box 108, Riverside, 15 Calif.

solemn coronation ceremonies which took place on the plateau of Chevremont, witnessed by a throng of 40,000 of her faithful followers.

gather with notables from the adjoining village of Vaix, and imprisoned them as hostages. Later, the (Continued on page 7)



The 1.35 franc plus 1.35 franc pictures the Carmelite Basilica of the Virgin which crowns the plateau.

The Basilica is of recent origin, dating from 1877, when its cornerstone was laid by Msgr.

Montpellier, Bishop of Liege. The Carmelites installed themselves a

year later in the adjoining convent.

Work on the Basilica, a triple-

nave church, continued for 22

years. On September 8, 1899, Msgr.

Doutreloux, who was at that time

Bishop of Liege, consecrated the

church.

On August 4, 1914 a Belgian offi-

cer ordered the Carmelites to eva-

LINN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

GEORGE W. LINN, Senior Editor HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA
CARL P. RUETH, Editor SIDNEY, OHIOPUBLICATION OFFICE 119-121 E. Court St., SIDNEY, OHIO
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DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES

LEWIS F. TURLEY
Advertising Manager

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CLOSING DATE for new copy or change, Wednesday noon, for publication second Monday following.

New Discoveries Can Be Made

One of the thrills of stamp collecting is to make a new discovery. To find and record something that has heretofore been unknown. More new discoveries could be made if the average collector realized the importance of carefully looking at and examining his stamps. This is not so true of modern stamps and not so necessary with modern issues as with many of the earlier ones. The crude methods of printing the early stamps in comparison with the modern allowed much more chance for minor errors which result in a minor variety.

It is of course true that modern stamp printing methods do allow of much possibility for errors or varieties to turn up but they are more apt to be found and recorded today than 75 to 100 years ago for in those days the world was just as big, places were much farther apart by time, and there were a smaller number of collectors to watch and be on guard to find new things.

Today, few of the many collectors ever get back into early issues, so that the chance for discoveries in the early stamps are just about as plentiful as ever.

The discovery I have recently made is in South Australia. I have been looking over catalogues and books on these stamps of the South Australian early stamps made many errors. That is many that are recorded. Those that are recorded would lead one to believe that there are perhaps many more that have been overlooked. We find several different of the early South Australians listed as printed on both sides. That seemed to be a common fault with the printers.

What we have found is something different. It is a double printing of the 1 shilling red brown, Scott No. 52. There is a shift of fully one half mm. showing clearly in all of the wording on the stamp. Anyone with good eyesight can see it without the aid of a glass.

I find no other South Australian double print in these early stamps listed by either Scott or Gibbons but there is mention of a 1 shilling in this issue with a partial double print.

It seems evident therefore that this is a new variety heretofore unlisted and perhaps a unique item.

It is peculiar how one will find such pieces. I have had this stamp for several years. It was on an approval card in a cabinet in which I keep stamps filed by countries. I was mounting up a lot of British Colonial issues to send to the A.P.S. Sales Department and when I came to the South Australian cards I looked over the stamps with a glass to note their condition. It was then that the double print on this stamp was noticed.

Centerport Local Bites The Dust

Word is at hand from Frederick P. Schmitt of Centerport, N. Y. that the Post Office Department has liquidated his Local Stamp. Mr. Schmitt gives some explanation of the reason for the order which closed out his Local, but we have difficulty in understanding just what has happened and just why the use of the Local Stamp has been ordered discontinued. Therefore we shall not attempt to make any explanation.

If our information is correct, it was first used on June 26, 1954. The first day use should become a very worthwhile cover as the establishment of the Local Service was unquestionably sanctioned by the Post Office Department and thus the service was legitimate and legal. Just why it was closed down is not clear to us except that we understand that Mr. Schmitt was not successful in getting any of the town people to use his service and that the only use of it was on covers which were ordered from Mr. Schmitt through the mail by collectors. If this is correct then it is evident that there was no legitimate need or reason for the service and as a result, it was closed out by the Department.

Mr. Schmitt seems to believe that the closing of his Local Post is just the beginning and that others of a similar nature may expect to be closed out. This however will depend perhaps on just what these other Local operators may be able to show in the way of service that they have rendered as the Postal Laws provide for these Local Posts and if operated within the law it would be difficult to see how they could be closed out without good reason.

"MATCH"

The above appears to be the name of a publication issued in Paris, France. It is a publication along the lines of our Look, or Life Magazines although not so profuse with heavy advertising. The publication being in French is such that we do not read it, yet we do find that in the issue of the 15 au 22 January there is a very extensive story or article on Stamps and Stamp Collecting. Besides four pages in reading with some black and white illustrations there is also a section of eight pages in color. Stamps picturing King Fuad and King Farouk are featured on the first page, even down to the final issue with the "bars". The other pages are devoted to stamps of all the world, one of which is of course the Lindbergh airmail stamp. Unlike the article on stamps in Life which stressed the great rarities of the world, this article does not deal with such stamps although we are able to note that Mr. Sperati is mentioned in the story accompanying the pictures. There is a page devoted to War issues, a couple pages for notable women, two pages on airmail issues and a page of interesting topicals such as animals, insects, fish, flowers and plants.

It is our opinion that this type of approach will do more good for stamp collecting than the approach along the line of world rarities. Such propaganda would seem to deter rather than encourage one to become interested in stamp collecting.

Our thanks to Mr. Bernard Davis of the Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia for a copy of the publication carrying this story.

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"I wonder if my wife is hinting that it's time to stop looking over my collection?"

A Postal Card Is Shoved Around

George H. Phillips

The postal service in modern times apparently does not have much trouble in finding even the small post offices now located in South Dakota, but an old postcard which recently came into my possession has nine cancellations, and indicates that the delivery of mail has not always been easy.

The card is addressed to Herman Hoeft, Gem, S. Dak., and was written by his brother August, and mailed in Tigerton, Wisconsin. The message is dated May 24, but the first postmark is May 25, 1898.

Gem, to which the card was addressed, was situated in Brown County southeast of the present city of Aberdeen, or about two and one-half miles northeast of Stratford. It was established on February 26, 1883, and discontinued on November 11, 1896.

On February 28, 1898, it was re-established, but was eventually discontinued on June 18, 1900. It was never a town, but was a farm post office, or country store, such as was common in those days.

Someone, probably near the point of dispatch, mistook Gem for Glen, for the card shows a postmark of Glen dated May 28. Glen, long since discontinued, was in Jerauld County, in the east central part of the state, and about 100 miles or more south of Gem. The mail must have gone by stage, because Glen was an inland town, and it must have been forwarded on the same stage, to the nearby larger town of Crow Lake, in the same county.

Crow Lake was also an inland town. Thus, the third postmark is that of Crow Lake, May 28.

It took the postmaster at Crow Lake three days to decide what to do with the card, for it bears another Crow Lake postmark this one dated May 31, 1898. Anyway, the card was dispatched to White Lake, which is about twenty miles south of where Crow Lake was, and White Lake is on a railroad. The White Lake postmark for May 31 appears in the upper left on the reverse side, and is a "Rec'd." mark.

On June 2 the card received another postmark, this time at Groton, which apparently was where it should have gone in the first place, inasmuch as the address says "Via Groton." Groton is about twenty miles north of the site of Gem, in the same county. The Groton postmaster, however, sent the card to Warner, which is about twenty miles west of the site of Gem. Here it was postmarked with a "Reg." postmark dated June 6.

The card remained in Warner for exactly a week, when it was again postmarked "Warner" on June 13, this time on the lower left of the back side.

The final postmark is that of Groton, dated June 14. Nine postmarks in a period of twenty days from six different post offices! And two of the South Dakota towns

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1955 STAMP PROGRAM

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ALREADY ISSUED

1064—Art Museum 3c, Philadelphia, Pa., January 15.
1065—Land Grant Colleges 3c, East Lansing, Mich., February 12.
1066—Rotary 3c, Chicago, Ill., February 23.

1067—Armed Forces Reserve 3c, Washington, D. C., May 21.
FA-1—Certified Mail 15c Washington, D. C., June 6.
1068—Stone Face 3c, Franconia, N. H., June 21.
1069—Soo Locks 3c, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., June 28.

CANADA

Aug. 20—Boy Scout Jamboree 5c, Ottawa, Canada (plus 5c each cover service charge).

UNITED NATIONS

Oct. 24—UN Day commem.
Dec. 9—Human Rights commem.

To obtain First Day Covers collectors can send a reasonable quantity, each with a name and address, and enclosing a stuffer to the Postmaster of the designated first day city with a request for FD Service. Payment must accompany to cover the face value of the stamps to be affixed. For UN and Canadian first days, watch the news stories on these and follow instructions.

which applied the postmarks are "ghost" post offices. Too bad the card never received a postmark at Gem.

But saddest of all, as a friend translates the German language message on the card: August wanted Herman to meet him at Ferney, S. D., some twenty miles east of Gem, on the 8th of June!

Postal history is fascinating, and it is the little "Gems" like this that add to the enjoyment of collecting. The card was given to me by Herman Hoeft, son of the man to whom is was addressed, and holds a prominent part in my collection of South Dakota postal history items.

October Postal Card Exhibition In Chicago

A lot of stamp collectors also have albums of postal cards, and it is the latter hobby which will be on display October 1 and 2. The two-day exhibition will be staged by the Windy City Post Card Collectors Club.

The place is the Grand Ballroom of the Hamilton Hotel, 20 S. Dearborn, Chicago, Ill. Information can be gotten from Robert Finnegan, P. O. Box 695, Whiting, Ind.

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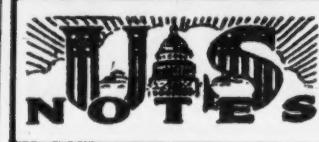
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BY CARL P. RUETH

Once you slip past the abundance of wordage in the design of the June 28 Soo Locks commem you find a better than average item. This is one of those happening every once in a while to be enjoyed with the naked eye as well as with magnification. In fact, I'd recommend you put your magnifying glasses on this one and give it a nice look.

Probably the greatest assets it possesses are the excellence of the blue, and the fine quality of the engraving which is especially notable in the delineation of the water. The Soo Lock stamp will undoubtedly bring nostalgic memories to those who have been on vacation at the Great Lakes, or riding their surfaces in a boat and watching the big lake carriers pass by all hours of the day and night. The commem scene is typical.

This makes two good ones in a row for the Post Office Department—the Great Stone Face, and the Soo Locks.

1. The Hoover Dam is named as what dam on a United States commem?

2. In the regular issues of 1922-26 and the 1938 Presidents, on which denominations did president Benjamin Harrison appear?

The LaSalle County Stamp Club of Ottawa, Ill. are hard at work already whooping it up for a commem in 1958. They want one on or near August 21 of that year because it will be the centennial of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates one of which was staged in Ottawa. They're looking for support from all stamp clubs and other interested persons and organizations who are urged to support the plea to the POD.

The Boy Scout Merit Badge discussions in several columns past have certainly brought in interesting letters pro and con. A different viewpoint which is worthy of reproduction comes in a letter from Robert G. Pippitt of Dayton, Ohio. He writes—

"I would like to comment on your note concerning the Stamp Collecting Merit Badge in U. S. Notes for 27 June 1955.

"As a former Boy Scout, my understanding of many of the merit badge requirements is that they are informative in nature. Some badges such as safety, personal health, camping, etc. are skills or knowledge any good outdoorsman-citizen should have. Other badges give these young men an opportunity to learn good recreational habits, or about possible career opportunities.

"In the interest of our hobby, I do not believe we should try to require evidence of a serious or permanent interest in philately. Rather, we should give all the Scouts ample opportunity to learn about our hobby without frightening them away with stringent requirements. Thus, all the Scouts with the temperament or interest for becoming collectors will do so. We should require only the knowledge of proper handling of stamps so that they will not inadvertently destroy them and only enough collecting to acquaint them with the hobby.

"I have recently re-read the requirements and feel they are excellent in the light of the above thinking, even if these requirements are just barely met."

THANKS FOR THE COVERS
DEPT.: Martin Bostrom, Orebro,
Sweden; Gunnar Madsen, Tollose,
Denmark; Pierre A. Cubells, Soissons,
France; H. G. Spanton, Buenos
Aires, Argentina; I. Leon Hunt,
Westport, Conn.; William N.
Wright, Ogden, Utah; Ralph A.
Angell, Derry Village, N. H.;
Charles E. Wood, Talmage, Nebr.;
Horace O. Westbrooks, Griffin,
Ga.; F. J. Guzik, Littleton, N. H.;
Frank Griffin, Mishawaka, Ind.;
Hugh Moore, Jr., Frankfort, Ky.;
M. Poisson-Massart, Antwerp, Bel-
gium.

It is probably a good time to point out that the newly created Certified Mail Service does only two things for you — one, proof that you mailed a letter, and two, that it was received. It does not insure against loss, nor can you collect any money if the Certified

SPECIAL EDITIONS

Various dealers will want to time some of their advertising to appear in conjunction with the special editions of Linn's Weekly Stamp News sponsored by different specialist groups. These editions are always the last one of each month and contain a splendid amount of information about the particular country or specialty.

The next four editions of a special nature are as follows:

July 25—International Ryukyu Stamp and Coin Society.

August 29—Philatelic Library Association.

September 26—Bureau Issues Association.

October 31—Italy Stamp Group.

Further inquiries can be directed to this paper by interested dealers.

Clubs or societies agreeable to sponsoring a special edition can get the details on request

Mail is damaged, miscarried or lost.

The service is only of a domestic nature and doesn't mean a thing to the Canadians, Mexicans or other nations. You can't expect a signed receipt of delivery of Certified Mail anywhere outside the United States.

If you want to get protection which will indemnify you against loss then you are going to have to use registration for first class mail, or insurance for third and fourth class.

While the United States and the United Nations Post Office Departments have at times given first days of issue to postal stationery, I have a hunch they'd like to skip such inaugurations completely.

What makes it so difficult is the fact that all the names and addresses have to be typed on at the first day post office where the new piece is to be released, and that takes an awful lot of help. The U. S. POD has restricted the first day covers which could be gotten of postal stationery to only so many per person, but even so the task is a first class headache.

I'd like to suggest to the USPOD and the UNPOD an idea which would make postal stationery first day covers an even easier task to handle than the debut of a new stamp.

Let us say for instance a new aerogramme was to be released on September 30. As early as September 10, the Department could begin the sale to collectors who would be required to send in the full remittance and a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return of their purchase.

When received, the collector would place his name and address on the aerogramme, fold it correctly to size, seal it and then mail it back to the postmaster of the first day city for cancellation on the first day of issue, September 30.

The Department then would run them through the cancelling machines. All the post office would need is men to operate the machines, eliminating the half hundred or more temporary employees of two or three weeks which are usually hired to affix a new stamp to the prepared envelopes of collectors for first day treatment, or in the case of stationery, to type on names and addresses.

I feel definitely certain that collectors would be willing to do this for themselves and gain a first day cover of a postal stationery item not possible before.

It can't throw a monkey-wrench into the post offices because employees can be instructed not to accept for mailing any of the new aerogrammes until after the first day. They get such instructions now relative to the sale of commems which are sent to them prior to the first day.

Under the present established cataloging set-up only those pieces which are cancelled on the correct date, at the official first day city, are good. Anything else is a freak and worth nothing as a cover.

No one can lose on this way of doing things.

1. Boulder Dam.
2. On the 1922-26 the 13c; the Prexy the 24c.

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Ohio City Offers Cachet For Sesqui

Columbiana, Ohio, is celebrating its Sesqui-Centennial July 24-31, using for its theme "Wheels". Columbiana's prevailing industry at the time of its beginning was carriage making, followed by Harvey Firestone (Columbiana was his birthplace) and his tires, and now the "wheels of industry" follow through with this theme.

The Historical Society has an attractive rubber-stamp cachet to offer to anyone sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The price is 5c per cover, or 3 for 10c. These should be sent to Mrs. Margie Pfund, R. D. #1, Columbiana, Ohio, for servicing.

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1910 9.00 2.25 1.50

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1917 60 15 08

1918 50 15 08

thru 1921 each 40 10 05

1922 55 14 08

1923 25 07 04

thru 1927 each 15 04 02

1928 10 03 02

1929 94 02 01

1930 issued panes of 10 only. 1918 has one

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FOR ART ON STAMPS COLLECTORS. On June 10 Belgium released a set of two commemoratives for the Third Biennial for Sculpture held at Antwerp. Design of both is the same it reproducing the statue of a nude female figure. The 1.20fr is in olive and the 2fr in purple. A first day cover was sent by M. Poisson-Massart of Antwerp, Belgium.



HENRY M. FRIEDMAN
Box 21, Planetarium Sta.
New York 24, N. Y.

CANADA. On August 20 Canada will release a 5c stamp to commemorate the International Boy Scout Jamboree, which will open at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. The stamp will be in two colors, green and gold and will probably be in demand all over the world.

NEW ZEALAND. Although over five million of each value were issued of the 1950 Health stamps (#B36-37), showing Prince Charles, the demand has been so large that they are quite scarce. Both wholesale and retail prices have advanced, but they are still available here at a low price.

This also applies to the 1952 set (#B40-41) showing Princess Anne and Prince Charles. Prices of both sets are due for a further advance.

INDIA. Although this country is no longer a part of the British Empire, many collectors keep up with the stamps of India as part of their British Empire collection. The attractive Postal Centenary set, issued on October 1, 1954 is popular and in demand. Fyndem in Stamp Collecting (London) gives this set as his week's Good "FYND".

NYASALAND. Do not overlook the three Elizabeth stamps perforated 12 x 12 1/2, issued in March 1954. The values are 1/2d, 2d and 6d. These stamps were prepared specially for coils, but some were released also in sheet form. They have advanced considerably in price, but will probably go higher, due to scarcity.

NEWFOUNDLAND. The Do X stamp C12 and the Balbo C18 are both high priced, but should go higher. There were only about 8000 of each issued, which is small for airmail stamps from a popular country. They are both still available here at around \$30 each, if you can find them.

BERMUDA. The 1938 ten shilling stamp #126A is scarce and not easy to locate. Gibbons' price is 22 Pounds and Scott's Catalogue price is \$55. A mint copy sold at a recent London auction sale for nine Pounds and 15 shillings (\$27.30).

NORTH BORNEO. One of the rare stamps of North Borneo is #54, a surcharged stamp 6c on 8c green, priced by Scott at \$500, and by Gibbons at 120 Pounds (\$336). Evidently both catalogues are too high, as

a mint copy sold at a recent auction in London for 52 Pounds 10 shillings (\$147).

KENYA. The 30c George VI stamp #68 exists with various perforations, of which perforated 14 is the scarcest. Priced by Scott at 15c regardless of perforation, the price in Gibbons' is 40 shillings (\$5.60) and the Commonwealth Catalogue price, mint, is 30 shillings (\$4.20). Check your copy.

RECENTLY THE BALTIMORE PHILATELIC SOCIETY UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE DECISION OF THE MARYLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY TO MERGE WITH THE FORMER ORGANIZATION. THIS MERGER IS THE RESULT OF A DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE B.P.S. TO OFFER ALL ACTIVE STAMP COLLECTORS IN BALTIMORE A SINGLE, CENTRALIZED ORGANIZATION FOR ASSOCIATION, FELLOWSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE IN STAMP COLLECTING.

Thus, the board of directors, headed by C. Bennett Rose, president of the B.P.S., has moved another step forward toward the completion of its program of outstanding philatelic interest for the collectors of Baltimore. Already it has opened its membership to women; relocated at a more favorable location — the Mount Royal Building of the Maryland Institute of Art, and established plans for a junior collectors group for those between 14 and 18 years of age.

In continuous operation since before 1889, the Baltimore Philatelic Society invites all active collectors to visit with its members in their new location, with their larger, more diversified group on any 2nd and 4th Friday evening of each month. Meetings begin informally at 8:00 p.m.

CHEVREMONT
(Continued from page 3)

Prior was released, but other Carmelites were held in his stead. The Brothers made temporary repairs to their church and recommended their offices.

During the four years of warfare pilgrimages were at first interrupted, but gradually began again.

On May 20, 1919 over 20,000 pilgrims were made to Chevremont where Solemn High Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Lamine under the portal of the church before an altar surmounted by the image of the Virgin.

Chevremont was destined to feel the impact of war once more. In May 1940 the hill became the target of artillery fire — a barrage much more intense than that in 1914. The damage was enormous. The east wall of the transept collapsed to the level of the organ

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243	20c Ft. Ga.	.25	311	4c Capex	.65
246	1c R. Visit	1.00	313	7c Capex	4.00
247	1c R. Visit	1.00	314	15c Capex	4.50
248	3c R. Visit	.50	315	4c R. Visit	.60
257	10c Parl.	.50	316	20c Paper	.45
259	14c R. Tank	2.00	317	4c R. Cross	.60
260	20c Corp.	1.00	318	3c Abbott	.50
270	14c Hydro	1.30	319	4c MacKen	.40
271	20c Reaper	.60	320	7c Goose	1.10
272	50c Lumb	11.50	322	2c Bear	1.10
274	4c Bell	.30	323	3c Moose	.60
275	4c Citizen	.35	324	4c Sheep	.50
276	4c Elts.	.65	325	9-5 cpl.	.90
277	4c Govt.	.65	326	4c W. Polar	.50
282	4c New York	.65	327	4c Walrus	.60
289	1c No Post.	.40	328	5c Beaver	.60
290	2c No Post	3.00	329	10c Gannet	5.00
291	3c No Post	.30	330	4c Thomp.	.50
292	4c No Post	3.00	344	4c Bowell	.40
304	50c Oil W.	9.50	345	5c Bowell	.40

MINT CANADA SINGLES

96-103	1/4c-20c Quebec Ter.	(8 cts)	14.00
141-148	1c-20c 1927 Issue	(8 cts)	1.50
149-159	1c-81 1928 Scroll	(11 cts)	14.25
162-177	1c-81 1930 Leaf	(16 cts)	14.00
210	2c New Brunswick	23	
211-216	1c-13c 1935 Jubilee	(6 cts)	1.55
217-227	1c-81 1935 Issue	(11 cts)	4.00
241-245	10c-\$1 1938 (5 cts)	3.75	
246-248	1c-3c 1938 R. Visit	(3 cts)	.20
268-273	8c-81 1946 Peace	(6 cts)	3.60
274-7, 282-3	1947-49 Commem.	(6 cts)	.40
284-288	1c-5c With Postage	(5 cts)	.25
289-293	1c-5c No Postage	(5 cts)	.15
295-300	1c-5c 1950 Coll.	(6 cts)	.45
208	51 Fish	1.90	
311-314	1951 Capri	(4 cts)	.75
C1-C9	Air Mails complete	(9 var)	4.40
CE1-CE4	Air Mail S. Del.	(4 cts)	1.55

A. H. THERIEN

272, des Pins East, Quebec, Canada

Jubilee Dinner Of BIA In Washington

The opening gun, socially speaking, in the barrage of special philatelic events studding the program of the Washington Jubilee Exhibition at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C., this fall, will be a reception and cocktail party to be followed by the silver jubilee buffet dinner of the Bureau Issues Association, Thursday, evening, October 20.

Members of the Bureau Issues Association, Washington Philatelic Society, The American Philatelic Congress, the Essay-Proof Society, and other philatelic groups will be present together with leading officials and technical experts of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the Post Office Department.

Tickets for the buffet dinner, including the reception, are \$6.50 each. Remittances should be made payable to the "Bureau Issues Association, Inc." and mailed to Edward S. Conger, 7317 Alaska Ave. N.W., Washington, 12, D. C. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for return of tickets, otherwise they will be held for delivery at the B.I.A. registration desk at the exhibition. Reservations should be made now.

Dealer Doings

A post office error caused a number of the orders sent in answer to an ad in the June 13 edition addressed to Benjamin B. DuBose of Atlanta, Ga. to be returned to senders. In error they were forwarded to Macon, Ga. Corrective action has been taken in the post office—readers can send their orders now to P. O. Box 993, Atlanta 1, Ga.

First day covers of the British Commonwealth of Nations are a specialty of the Crokin Cover Service, 3650 Lincoln Ave., Detroit 8, Mich. and the firm has produced a price list of them which is free for the asking. Besides the comprehensive Colonial representation the firm also has the Royal Visit, Princess Elizabeth and other FDC's.

Alex A. Jason, 754 Lyon St. N.E., Grand Rapids 3, Mich. has released a full scale price list of used Egyptian—1888 to current including the 3 and 6 bar issues. Mr. Jason also deals in used British as King George VI, Queen Elizabeth II and in British Empire first day covers. Used British Empire have been a specialty for a long while.

Unusual and unique seals, labels and stickers are stocked by Orian Green, 555 W. Drayton Ave., Fendale, Mich. He has a three-page list of such material which is sent on receipt of a stamped, addressed envelope. Seal collectors will find much of interest while the straight stamp collector will find items pertaining to philatelic events.

Free samples of Protective Mounts, clear acetate mounts especially for displaying and protecting mint stamps are sent on requests to Protective Mounts, 525 S. Western Ave., Los Angeles 5, Calif. They protect against discoloration, tearing, curling, soiling, handling and gum damage. Mention Linn's when writing for samples and price list.

Consumers Service, 143 Garrett Ave., Chula Vista, Calif. has a set of colorful album pages for stamps issued honoring the 50th Anniversary of Rotary International. The Statue of Liberty has always fascinated a lot of people who have never even seen it, and do not know its full meaning as some do who have come from under the grim oppression of some overseas governments.

That the Statue was chosen both as the regular letter rate here and for the regular foreign rate we think is very appropriate. We know of at least one collector who collected precancels only of the old 15c Statue stamp. When we last saw him he was adding

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C3225	C4640
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C3445	C48	1.50
C3570	C49	1.50
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BELGIUM—On June 10 was issued two stamps both having the same design. It depicts the sculptured work "The Foolish Virgin" by Rik Wouters and commemorates the Sculpture Exhibition held in Antwerp from June 11 through September 10. The values are 1.20 and 2fr.

COLOMBIA—A set of stamps commemorating Rotary International has been proposed for issuance sometime in October to coincide with the opening of the Postal Congress in Bogota.

FRANCE—On June 4 the 50fr reddish-brown and red stamp in memory of aviatrix Maryse Bastie was released. On June 3 a 30fr blue was issued honoring Jules Verne. The stamp contains the portrait of Jules Verne and a "Nautilus".

ISRAEL—A set of stamps having 12 values is now in preparation. Each stamp to represent one of the original twelve tribes. The values announced to date are as follows: 10p, 20p, 30p, 40p, 60p, 180p, 200p, 250p.

JUGOSLAVIA—On June 6 two stamps were issued for the Theatrical Festival at Dubrovnik from June 25 through September 15. The values are: 15d carmine-brown, showing a scene from "Robin Hood"; 30d blue, showing a scene from "Midsummer Night's Dream".

JUGOSLAVIA—A 15d stamp will be issued for the World Congress of the Deaf to be held in Zagreb from August 23 to 27. During September 1955, a nine-value set featuring flowers of Jugoslavia used by industrial plants, and in medicine. The values are: 5d, Humulus lupulus; 10d, Nicotiana tabacum; 15d, Papaver somniferum; 17d, Tilia cordata; 25d, Matricaria chamomilla; 30d, Salvia officinalis; 50d, Rosa canina; 70d, Gentiana lutea; and 100d, Adonis vernalis.

LIECHTENSTEIN—The second sports set devoted to skiing was issued on June 14. The values are: 10rp violet blue, Slalom; 20rp green-ochre, Belaying; 25rp light blue, descent run; and 40rp olive-rose, resting on the summit.

SPAIN—15c, 80c, and 3Pts. stamps will be issued to commemorate the centenary of the Spanish telegraph. To honor St. Vincent Ferrer, preacher and miracle worker, a 15c stamp is forecast.

VATICAN—The 35 lire violet of the Saint Boniface stamp has been discovered completely imperforate. So far, only one sheet of fifty has been found.

WALLACE HILBORN
106 S. Poydras St. (ASDA)

Dallas, Texas

the two new values to his collection and any others that might be added.

As we now know, no others are to be released. I do not recommend such a collection from a collector's standpoint because it is quite limited but of course I would not be writing this article if I did not think it had some merit.

In the old 15c value there are two perfs to collect, 11 x 11 and 11 x 10 1/2. In the new series the 3c value will have both sheet stamp and coils. In the 8c there supposedly are two types of printing but if you can distinguish these you are pretty good. However a collection of this type properly arranged and written up could be extremely interesting.

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COBB & CO. (Continued from page 1)

tions generally so chaotic that Mowton, experienced express man, considered that the time was not opportune to commence a branch of Adams and Co.

However, Cobb was not deterred and found in Lamber, Peck and Swanton kindred spirits who were prepared to join in founding what was at first a carrying business on the Liardet's Beach — Melbourne route but which was quickly transformed into a coaching line in the American tradition.

The new firm was fortunate in having the backing of George Train, an American merchant in Melbourne who had imported some American coaches as a business venture, and Cobb and Co. was able to launch, in January 1854, the "American Telegraph Line of Coaches" between Melbourne, Forrest Creek and Bendigo.

The coaches used by Cobb and Co. were in startling contrast to the heavy English-pattered coaches in use in the Colony. The American coaches were much lighter and as the bodies hung on leather straps suspended from iron jacks they gave more comfortable riding. They had larger wheels and thinner spokes and a number of other novel features making for lightness and speed.

Most of the early Cobb and Co. coaches were of the "Concord" type, built in Connecticut by Abbott and Co., nationally famed coachbuilders. However, within a few years Cobb and Co. were building their own coaches at Ballarat and later at Bathurst.

From the outset the firm set high standards of service. Efficiency was maintained at the highest level and punctuality was enforced. Despite the poor roads rarely did a Cobb and Co. coach fail to meet its schedule although at times the roads were in such a bad state that services had to be suspended. By 1855 another American, Thomas Davies, had instituted the "Peoples Line" of coaches between Melbourne and Ballarat and in May 1856, he was able to acquire the thriving Cobb and Co. business, as the four partners had decided to sell.

Cobb stepped out of Australian history but his interest in coaching persisted. He returned home and for a time was a State Senator in Massachusetts. Later he went to South Africa and established a coaching line between Port Elizabeth and the Kimberly diamond fields, a service he controlled for six years until his death in 1878, at the early age of 48 years.

Lamber returned to his native town, Leavenworth, Kan. where he died in 1898, and Swanton, after engaging in the coaching business in various parts of Australia and later in New Zealand, where Cobb and Co. coaches were introduced by various proprietors in 1861, also finally returned to the United States.

Peck was the only partner to

make his home in Australia. After the business was sold, he went to the United States for a short visit, returning with a number of new 40 passenger "Jack" coaches, built to his own design, which were purchased by Cobb and Co. and enabled greatly improved services to be provided on the main coaching routes. Peck subsequently set up business as a stock agent in Melbourne, where he died in 1903.

In Victoria, the business of Cobb and Co. made remarkable progress from the outset. It quickly obtained many post office mail contracts, it initiated a night service to Bendigo in 1857, and its routes extended far and wide throughout the State. It was a thriving business and before the end of the 'fifties' it had changed hands four times; on the last occasion being acquired by a new partnership of six—James Rutherford, Alexander William Robertson, John Wagner, Walter Russel Hall, William Franklin Whitney, and Walter Bradley—although by that time some Cobb and Co. routes had been sold to other companies and the name of Cobb and Co. was frequently used on coaches by other proprietors.

Rutherford and his partners completely reorganized and improved the services and secured almost a monopoly of the Victorian mail contracts. However, at no time did Cobb and Co. have a monopoly of coaching services and on some routes such as Melbourne-Geelong, competition was very keen.

Cobb and Co. extended operations to New South Wales in 1862, following the Lambing Flat gold rush, and established headquarters at Bathurst, where they remained for 50 years. Many coaches, horses and drivers were sent from Victoria to commence the new service and eventually coach-building works were set up in Bathurst.

The name of Cobb and Co. first appeared amongst the list of mail contractors in New South Wales in 1862. On July 14, 1862, Cobb and Co. took over contracts covering the western and southern roads which had been held by William Crane and J. J. Roberts and it is likely that Bathurst became the capital of the Cobb and Co. empire because these routes were based on that town. They included the routes, Penrith, Hartley and Bathurst, Bathurst and Sofala, and Bathurst, Guyong and Orange. The firm of Crane and Roberts had become firmly entrenched in New South Wales but Cobb and Co. succeeded in buying them out and taking over their mail contracts.

On September 1, 1862, Ford and Co. transferred to Cobb and Co. the mail contracts it held over other western routes, including Bathurst and Carcoar, and Carcoar, Cowra and Forbes.

Cobb and Co. received its first direct mail contract on September 15, 1862, on the western roads covering Orange, Stony Creek, Ironbarks, Black Rock Wellington and Montefiores.

In the following year further contracts were secured. In 1863 also appeared amongst the contractors the name of Robertson, Wagner and Co. which was also Cobb and Co., as both Robertson and Wagner were partners in the firm, with Rutherford and others.

Thereafter for many years Cobb and Co. dominated the list of N.S.W. contractors and under the firm name, as well as under Robertson, Wagner and Co., based on Hay, they covered the longer and busier routes. There were at all times, however, a large number of other coaching proprietors who held a good proportion of N.S.W. mail contracts. Many were associated in various ways with the Cobb and Co. system but many were entirely independent.

The business was extended to Queensland in 1865 when the company put a coach on the Brisbane-Ipswich route and, as in Victoria and New South Wales, the firm set out to obtain as many government mail contracts as possible. By the beginning of 1867 Cobb & Co. coaches were running to Ipswich, Too-

woomba, Warwick, Dalby, Condamine and Roma, and further extensions were being made constantly.

The Queensland business was organized as a separate company, with Rutherford as managing director, but all Cobb and Co. enterprises were so integrated that coaching equipment could be interchanged as necessary.

By 1870, Cobb and Co. in the three eastern colonies were harnessing 6000 horses a day; their coaches travelled 28,000 miles per week and they received £95,000 per annum from their mail contracts.

The business was divided in 1871, Robertson and Wagner taking the Victorian section, and Rutherford, Hall, Whitney and Bradley the New South Wales and Queensland sections. Bradley left the firm a few years afterwards, Hall in 1880, and Whitney died in 1893, so that Rutherford alone remained in control of the two northern sections of the system.

In Victoria, particularly, the name of Cobb and Co. had become the property of a "loose confederation of proprietors". Of these, Robertson, Wagner and Co. controlled the main lines from the metropolis and later a "Western Stage Company", and later a "Western Stage Company", controlled most of the Western District routes, while Meigs and Anderson, and Watson and Hewitt ran Cobb and Co. coaches into Gippsland. As the railway system grew the coaching routes contracted and the last coaching booking office in Melbourne was closed about 1890. The firm of Robertson, Wagner and Co. was dissolved in 1898.

In New South Wales, as in Victoria, the extension of the railways slowly strangulated the coaching companies. Yet in 1884 in New South Wales Cobb and Co. had mail contracts worth £25,580 when the total value of road mail contracts that year was £110,555. In this same year the postal routes in New South Wales totalled 26,430 miles. Mail was conveyed on horseback over 13,444 miles and by coach over 11,302 miles. The remaining distance was bridged by railway (1662 miles) and tramway (22 miles).

But in subsequent years the pattern changed rapidly as the railways crept north, south and west. By the late 90's the coaching business in New South Wales was on the decline.

The Cobb and Co. enterprise in Queensland, controlled by Rutherford, continued well into the 20th century. Rutherford used to boast that he would never see Cobb and Co. die, nor did he. Rutherford died in 1911 and although the company itself was wound up in the following year, Cobb and Co. coaches, under other proprietors, such as Yuill and Co., continued

to run on Queensland roads. Not until 1924 was the last Cobb and Co. coach in Queensland, and in Australia, taken off the roads, this being on the Yeulba-Surat run. This particular coach is now in the Queensland museum.

Cobb and Co. did conduct some services in South Australia for a short time but their coaches and mail contracts were purchased by Hill and Co., later Graves, Hill and Co., which held the majority of the bigger South Australian contracts. Cobb and Co. did not gain a footing in Tasmania, where Page's Coaches and other firms were strongly entrenched.

The name of Cobb and Co. did not appear in the list of Western Australian mail contractors until 1896. By this time Cobb and Co. coaches had almost ceased to run in Victoria and many surplus coaches were available. A quantity of these, and as many as 1000 horses, were brought by Sidney Kidman and shipped to Western Australia where the discovery of gold had attracted a large number of gold seekers. Rutherford did not have an interest in the Western Australian business, which was formed by others who had extensive coaching experience in the eastern colonies.

Cobb and Co.'s first Western Australian mail contract was in respect of a route in the goldfields area. At that time mail was being conveyed to various points on the goldfields by spring vehicle, on horseback, by camel, coach and bicycle, by many different contractors.

By 1895 the firm of Saw and Wilkinson had become the leading mail contractor in the goldfields area but a number of their routes was acquired by Cobb and Co. from 1896 onwards. By 1900, Cobb and Co. ran coaches on some 30 routes, mainly in the goldfields, and while horse-drawn coaches were generally used it was necessary at times to use camels.

As in other States, the gradual extension of the railways in the goldfields area marked the decline of Cobb and Co. and by the early part of the 20th century the coaching business was but a pale shadow which was unable to survive.

Kaminer President Of Lockheed Club

Barney Kaminer was elected to the presidency of the Lockheed Stamp Club of Burbank, Calif. The group is made up of Lockheed Aircraft Co. employees and is a part of the firm's recreation program.

Other officers are vice president John J. Kowalak; treasurer Roy Wiley; secretary Jack W. Butts, P.O. Box 105, Reseda, Calif.

Meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesdays at the LERC Bldg., 2814 Empire St.

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WORD COUNT: Zone number free. Figure one (1) word for name of state (New Jersey); name of city (New York); sets of characters as in key (18-L); abbreviation of Northwest (NW); each separate initial (N.) (W.)

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All four only \$5.00

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All above 12 stamps \$1.60
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P.O. Box 400, OMAHA NEBR.

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Free catalog • Famed selections

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OUR 93rd AUCTION

AUG. 2, 1955

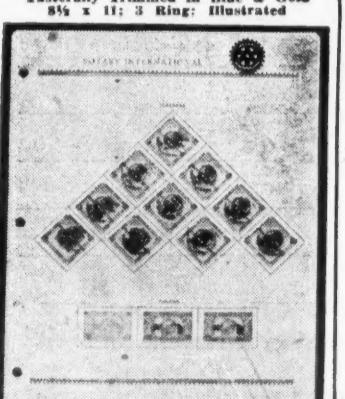
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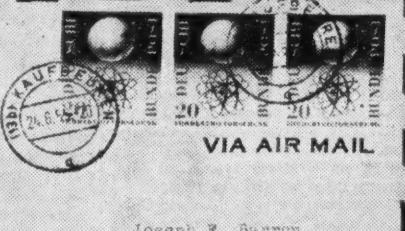
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Dominican	10	Cuba	25	Syria	1.00
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Belg.	(3)	Panama	3.95	Hondur.	10

Austria, Sweden, Cancellation, Panama re-issue, Date Blocks, etc. Many other special items in stock. Ask for your specific wants.

Joe Bush 143 N. Garrett
Chulavista, Calif.

First Day of Issue.



Joseph F. Barron,
2047, Pioneer Avenue,
Pittsburgh 26, Pa.

U. S. A.

ATOMS AND THE UNIVERSE are portrayed in the design of a new 20pf commem from the western zone of Germany, in a maroon color, issued June 24. The traditional melange of interesting atom paths represent the atomic theme, while a world globe surrounded by other heavenly bodies takes care of the universe one. The cover above was submitted by Joseph F. Barron, Pittsburgh, Pa.

they justify this as being sufficient reason for investment and that some of the sets may go up in value. This may, or may not be so.

Personally, I feel that there are many features in plate block collecting that can be most fascinating and attractive, without the thought of investment, and as stated earlier (in another article), when the pursuit of the plate block hobby and pastime is genuine and sincere, the serious collector is nobly rewarded without the thought of investment. By the same token, those whose interest in plate blocks is strictly investment (with rare exceptions) seldom get anywhere. They wind up with no collection and most of the time with a stack of plate blocks, which were calculated to bring them riches, and which must, sooner or later, be dumped at a loss.

Turning to those who feel the greatest satisfaction in obtaining plate blocks at face value, there it seems is a question of economics. If you were to tie into the cost of your plate blocks the amount of time, bother, and perhaps inconveniences experienced you may wind up with a total that would surprise you.

Of course I do not have in mind those for whom time is no object, and who have more of that than they know what to do with; but I do not know many such collectors. The cases which have been most in my experience are numerous collectors who would gladly pay the few cents extra per plate block in order to save much of the time that they would otherwise have to spend. Especially when we consider centering the all important feature in plate blocks the collector has much to gain when he can trade time, by obtaining more desirable specimens through stamp dealers.

Of course no condition, nor any recommendation that may be given here would suit best any and every collector. The tastes, the views, the likes and dislikes are so many that no formula could be found which would be suitable and satisfactory to all.

Citing instances from extensive experiences may be of help to those who may like to know views and attitudes of other plate block collectors. Many are the reasons and the attractions for collecting plate blocks and plate singles. What is your reason and on what do you place greatest emphasis? If you care to write and tell me of your views, I will be glad to hear from you.

List Of Irish Stamps
At Philatelic Agency

Released by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs of Ireland is its newest list of the stamps available at face value plus return postage and registration.

To be found thereon are the regulars, airmails, postage dues and commemoratives. The latter are separated and offered as to the type of watermark.

A copy can be obtained by sending an international reply coupon to The Controller, Philatelic Section, G.P.O., Dublin, Ireland.

#A79 TRADER'S SPECIAL \$7.50

One of our best selling units for more than 8 years since first introduced for traders and dealers. Odds and ends from various stocks thrown together regardless of catalog value. Practically all cat. 5c up to \$1.00 or more such as a world mix, no U.S.A. A typical lot will include scarcer countries such as Monaco, Inini, Spanish Morocco, Dominican Rep., Algeria, Cameroons, Macao, Saar. Predominately larger pictorials, incl. bicolors, airmails, commemorative sets, higher denominations incl. rupees, escudos, pesos, shillings, marks, etc. Widest variety. Over 500 stamps cataloging between \$40-\$50.

Free! Our large Mixture-collection catalog.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S GUILD
BOX #1 STATEN ISLAND 14, N. Y.

Finland To Honor
August Conference

A session in the plen-i-room of Finland's Riksdagshuset (Parliament) will be seen in the design of a 25 markka commemorative to be issued by that nation August 25.



It marks the Interparliamentary Conference to be held in Helsinki, the nation's capital, from August 15 to 31.

Martin Bostrom of Orebro, Sweden advises that the printing will amount to one million copies.

Arne Karjalainen prepared the design—the engraving is the work of B. Ekholm.

Slogan Cancellations
For Civic Festivals

Slogan cancellations which will be impressed on the prepared covers of collectors have been announced as available, or soon to be, by the Post Office Department. Envelopes with a name and address, 3c postage and containing a stuffer can be sent to the respective postmasters with a request for the slogan. Addressed postal cards can also be used for this purpose.

At Ellenville, N. Y. a sesquicentennial celebration merits attention from July 10 to August 31.

Another similar civic fete takes place at Athens, N. Y. for a six month period of use.

Onancock, Va. is 275 years old and states that fact on mail through its automatic cancelling machine until December 31.

Flint, Mich. is celebrating 100 years of existence and will use a slogan until December 31.

Another similar civic fete takes place at Athens, N. Y. for a six month period of use.

Onancock, Va. is 275 years old and states that fact on mail through its automatic cancelling machine until December 31.

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